

GULF DEFENDER

WING MISSION: TRAIN THE WORLD'S BEST AIR SUPERIORITY TEAM FOR THE AIR FORCE
WING VISION: TEAM TYNDALL - TAKING AMERICA'S PREMIER AIR SUPERIORITY TRAINING INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

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Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

Dec. 21, 2001

Cook takes command of AETC

MASTER SGT. MICHAEL BRIGGS

Air Education and Training Command public affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) — In front of a giant American flag, Gen. Donald G. Cook took command of Air Education and Training Command in an assumption of command ceremony Monday.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper presided over the ceremony that was attended by about 1,000 military members and dignitaries, including formations of military troops and civilian employees from Randolph and Lackland Air Force Bases representing a cross-section of the command.

In his remarks prior to bestowing command, General Jumper said

●SEE CHANGE PAGE 6



2nd Lt. Ryan Fitzgerald

Ho, ho, whooooaa!!!!

Santa taxis toward the 95th Fighter Squadron, courtesy of Capt. Justin "Ringo" Fletcher, Saturday. The 95th FS held its annual Christmas party and, along with special guest Santa Claus, distributed gifts to children of squadron members. More than 50 airmen and their families attended the annual event.

Recognition enhances Tyndall sponsorship program

2ND LT. SERENA CUSTIS

325th Fighter Wing public affairs

GOOD sponsors assist newcomers in making a smooth transition to Tyndall. GREAT sponsors go above and beyond to make moving an enjoyable experience for new members of Team Tyndall.

To show appreciation for these GREAT sponsors, Command Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Hodges initiated the sponsor of the month program.

"We want to recognize sponsors who do an outstanding job of starting people off on the right foot," Chief Hodges said. "Our aim is to strengthen the sponsorship program and encourage other sponsors to go the extra mile."

Master Sgt. Robert Draper from the 325th Medical Support Squadron went the extra mile and won the first sponsor of the month. He sponsored Senior Airman Becky Ballenger as she came to Tyndall from Kimhae Air Base, Korea. Airmen Ballenger said he helped her in-process every step of the way.

"Sergeant Draper sent me weekly e-mails to keep me updated on what was going on in the shop," Airman Ballenger said. "He also sent the Gulf Defender every week and a copy of the Tyndall mission briefing. He videotaped apartments in the area, and even sent episodes of Beach TV so I could see what the area was like."

Sponsors like Sergeant Draper are nominated for the

award when sponsorees fill out the newcomer sponsorship satisfaction survey and describe why his or her sponsor should win the award. Catherine Tarrant, the program coordinator, said a board selects the winners.

"The board rates sponsors on a scale of 1-5," said Ms. Tarrant. "They review the comments that the sponsorees write on the surveys and judge the sponsor on two basic criteria — timely two-way communication and providing services beyond the requirements of the regulation."

Other sponsor of the month recipients include Ms. Deborah Baublis from the 325th Logistics Support Squadron and Airman 1st Class Barry George from the 95th Fighter Squadron.

A time for friends, family and reflection

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM F. HODGKINS

325th Fighter Wing commander



Wow!!! 2001 was quite a ride here at Tyndall. You, the men and women of Team Tyndall, have tackled every challenge thrown our way from hosting our commander-in-chief's first visit to an Air Force base, to building homes for our community's less fortunate. We also responded magnificently, standing tall when we were called upon to help our country recover from terrorist attacks Sept. 11.

But when all was said and done, it's the work that went on behind the scenes by the professional men and women of Tyndall AFB that I am the most proud of — truly, all of you made us who we are, the Checkertail Clan.

Tyndall's new year looks to be an eventful one starting with the 325th Operations Group change of command Jan. 7 in which we bid farewell to Col.



"I hope and ask that you make time, take time, do whatever you must to take care of each other and your families."

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM F. HODGKINS

325th Fighter Wing commander

Charlie and Susie Shugg and welcome Col. Mark Barrett. Later in the month our team will be highlighted nationwide, as the CBS reality TV show "American Fighter Pilot" (see story pages 8-9) broadcasts to an estimated 16 million viewers. Lots of work will be required to host our annual Open House/Air Show in March, and of course, we'll all continue to work diligently to prepare for the F-22 beddown in 2003.

While all of this will certainly be challenging and will require our full at-

tention, I hope and ask that you make time, take time, do whatever you must to take care of each other and your families. Be especially aware of safety, as we work and play hard. With all the seasonal celebrations, be wary of drinking, and never drink and drive. Not only does your family need you around, so does the 325th and our United States Air Force.

To everyone who is part of Team Tyndall, Martha and I wish you happy holidays. May your season be filled with joy, happiness and many blessings.

Action Line

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

Action Line calls are recorded and staffed through the proper agency. The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers. If you're not satisfied with the response or you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the office of inspections, 283-4646. Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM F. HODGKINS

325th Fighter Wing commander

Tax tips

Did you serve any part of 2001 in an officially declared combat zone? If so, you may be eligible for a tax break. If you served in a combat zone for one or more days in a particular month, you are entitled to exclude that entire month's pay from your income. You are also eligible to exclude military pay earned while in a hospital as a result of wounds, disease or injury incurred in the combat zone.

Enlisted members, commissioned officers, warrant officers and commissioned warrant officers are all eligible to receive the exclusion. However, the maximum exclusion that a commissioned officer may take is limited to the highest rate of enlisted pay. To qualify as a combat zone, the area must have been designated as such by an executive order signed by the president of the United States. For more information on whether an area is designated as a combat zone, consult IRS Publication 3, *Armed Forces' Tax Guide* or log on to www.irs.gov.

New commander sends holiday greeting, wishes to AETC airmen

GEN. DONALD G. COOK

Air Education and Training Command commander

To the men and women of Air Education and Training Command — becoming your commander on Dec. 17 was the proudest moment of my military career. Diane and I are very grateful for your warm wishes and kind welcome, and we are tremendously happy to be part of such a professional and highly respected team. I look forward with great enthusiasm to the opportunity to meet as many of you as possible when I visit your units in the months ahead.



As we count down the days remaining in 2001, we anticipate the opportunity and promise of tomorrow — as mothers and fathers; as husbands and wives; as sons and daughters; but mainly as Americans.

Our world changed a great deal this past year. As a result, we will face new challenges in the years ahead as we fulfill our mission of replenishing the combat capability of America's Air Force with professional air warriors.

We will tackle these challenges in the same manner we have since the inception of this great command: by standing side by side as officers and enlisted professionals; as members of the active duty, Guard and Reserve; as airmen, sailors, soldiers and Marines; as civilians and contract employees; as retirees and family members; but mainly as Americans.

Together, we will do great things. Diane and I wish you each the blessings of a wonderful holiday season and best wishes for the new year. Please be safe.

Gulf Defender Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. William F. Hodgkins 325th FW commander
Capt. Chris Karns chief, 325th FW public affairs
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chaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office at Tyndall. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL 32403-5425 or emailed to editor@tyndall.af.mil. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*.

For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

ARTICLES15

The following 325th Fighter Wing members received nonjudicial punishment at Tyndall Air Force Base. The list is not published to single out individuals or to draw attention to specific squadrons or units. Therefore, member names and units will not be published. Information is published to familiarize members of Team Tyndall with actions that can result in disciplinary action.

- An airman, found to be impersonating a commissioned officer and wearing unauthorized flight wings and other badges, was reduced to airman basic, restricted to Tyndall AFB for 15 days and given 30 days extra duty. That airman was also charged with failure to obey a lawful order.
- An airman, who wrongfully possessed, used and manufactured marijuana, was reduced in rank to airman basic, forfeited \$521 pay for two months and was given 60 days restriction.
- An airman first class was reduced in rank to airman (suspended), given 30 days correctional custody and a reprimand for failure to go to work.
- An airman first class was reduced in rank to airman for assault and battery, failure to go and making a false official statement.
- An airman first class, who failed to go to work, was reduced in rank to airman (suspended) and forfeited \$100 pay for one month.
- An airman first class, who failed to obey an

order by repeatedly failing room inspections, was reduced in rank to airman, was given 15 days extra duty and 30 days restriction.

- An airman first class forfeited \$100 pay for two months and received a reprimand for sleeping on post.
- An airman first class was reduced in rank to airman for wrongful use of marijuana.
- A senior airman was reduced in rank to airman first class (suspended), given two days extra duty and a reprimand for assault and battery.
- A senior airman, who failed to obey and who made a false official statement by submitting a false identification, was reduced in rank to airman first class and given 30 days correctional custody.
- A senior airman was reduced in rank to airman first class and was given 14 days extra duty and a reprimand for dereliction of duty regarding unauthorized use of the government credit card.
- A master sergeant, who released unauthorized information and was found to be derelict in his/her duties for failing to correct personnel, was reduced in rank to technical sergeant.
- A master sergeant received a reprimand as punishment in an Article 15 for violation of an order, assault, and drunk and disorderly.

Holiday recycling guidelines

ROBERT MYERS
Tyndall Recycling coordinator

The holidays are upon us once again. This means Tyndall's households will be filled with additional recyclables such as cardboard, wrapping paper, aluminum pie tins, aluminum drink cans, plastic drink bottles and glass containers.

This year Christmas and New Years fall on a Tuesday which is normally a housing pick-up day. We will be picking up recyclables in Wood Manor on Wednesday and Dec. 31. In addition, we will pick up cardboard and wrapping paper on Wednesday. Shoal Point, Felix Housing and Redfish Point Housing will be picked up on their normal Thursday.

To aid us in sorting the recyclables, please separate out any plastic, cellophane wrap, styrofoam and any other packing material. Break down the cardboard, and stuff as much wrapping and packing paper into boxes as you can and set it by the curbside for pickup on Wednesday.

Over the past year, the economy has taken a downturn and even though the amount (tonnage) of recyclables processed has continually increased, the prices for all the commodities has consistently gone down and the recycling program lost money for the first time since its inception. Your support for the program is needed now, more than ever.

Please help us by sorting the recyclables properly. Some examples are: Take the lids off of plastic containers and dispose of them, sort and separate white ledger paper, newspapers, etc., crush aluminum cans and break down cardboard to allow for more space and less trips to the recycling center. In addition, we take all toner cartridges, plastic cased lead-acid batteries and most scrap metal.

Due to current commodities prices, we are not taking magazines, phone books, steel food containers and green glass products at this time. When the market prices start to rise we will notify the public and resume the collection of the above-mentioned commodities.

The Recycling Center processed over 1,468 tons of recyclable material in Fiscal Year 2001. The program saved over \$160,000 in cost avoidance (landfill fees).

For more information about the Tyndall Recycling Program, please call 283-2267.

Facing the Holidays: HOW TO ENJOY THEM, AND NOT JUST SURVIVE

COURTESY OF THE 325TH
MEDICAL GROUP

The holidays from Thanksgiving to New Year's are billed as a time for family, celebration, warmth and love. However, many people experience them as times of high stress and deep disappointment or depression. Military families face special challenges since they are often separated from family or have a family member on deployment. The tips listed below can help you maintain a healthy perspective throughout the holiday season.

- If you are stationed too far away to be with family, or if your spouse is deployed through the holidays, focus on positive ways to be in touch for the holidays. Focus on the strength of what is there, not the hurt of what is missing.

- Set some realistic goals for your preparation. You don't have to cook every favorite food or use every decoration you own. If others expect certain things for the holidays, invite them to help in the preparation.

- Establish a realistic budget and save for your Christmas purchases. Resist the temptation to run up credit card bills you will not be able to pay off in a reasonable

time.

- Stay in touch with good friends during this time. Share with each other what you are doing and other things on your mind. Talking is an excellent way to relieve stress.

- Sometimes it's not possible to celebrate the holidays the way you'd like because the climate is different, or certain foods are not available where you are stationed. It's important to be creative with your celebration. Take advantage of the opportunities or the unique characteristics of the place where you live.

- Let the kids be part of the preparation. Depending on their age, they might help by putting stamps on card envelopes, or holding their finger on a bow while you wrap a gift. Let them create some gift wrap. Paper, glue, crayons and glitter offer interesting possibilities.

If you feel that the stress of the holiday season is becoming overwhelming, don't be afraid to ask for help from family and friends. If, as a TRICARE beneficiary, you would like to contact a mental health professional in your area, please call Choice Behavioral Health Partnership at (800)700-8646, or visit their Web site, www.choicebehavioral.com.

Do's and Don'ts

Do contact someone with whom you've lost touch.
Do something for someone else; an old remedy, but it works.
Don't drink too much; excessive drinking makes stress worse.
Don't be afraid to try new things; celebrate new things.
Do find time for yourself; get away from family and friends occasionally.



2nd Lt. Serena Custis

Union gives gift of e-gab

David Adams, president of the local 1113 American Federation of Government Employees, and Marilyn Marsh, secretary, present a \$1,000 grant to the 325th Fighter Wing Commander Gen. William F. Hodgkins Wednesday. The grant will be used to improve the e-mail capability of the base library's computer lab, enabling enhanced communication between deployed Tyndall members and their families.

Chapel Christmas season schedule

Catholic Parish Programs

Monday, Children's Mass, Chapel Two, 5 p.m.;
Midnight Mass, Chapel Two, midnight;
Jan. 1, Holy Day Mass, Chapel Two, 10 a.m.

Protestant Parish Programs

Monday, Family Service, Chapel One, 5 p.m.;

Candlelight Service, Chapel Two, 7 p.m.; Communion Service, Chapel One, 11:30 p.m.

Ecumenical Program

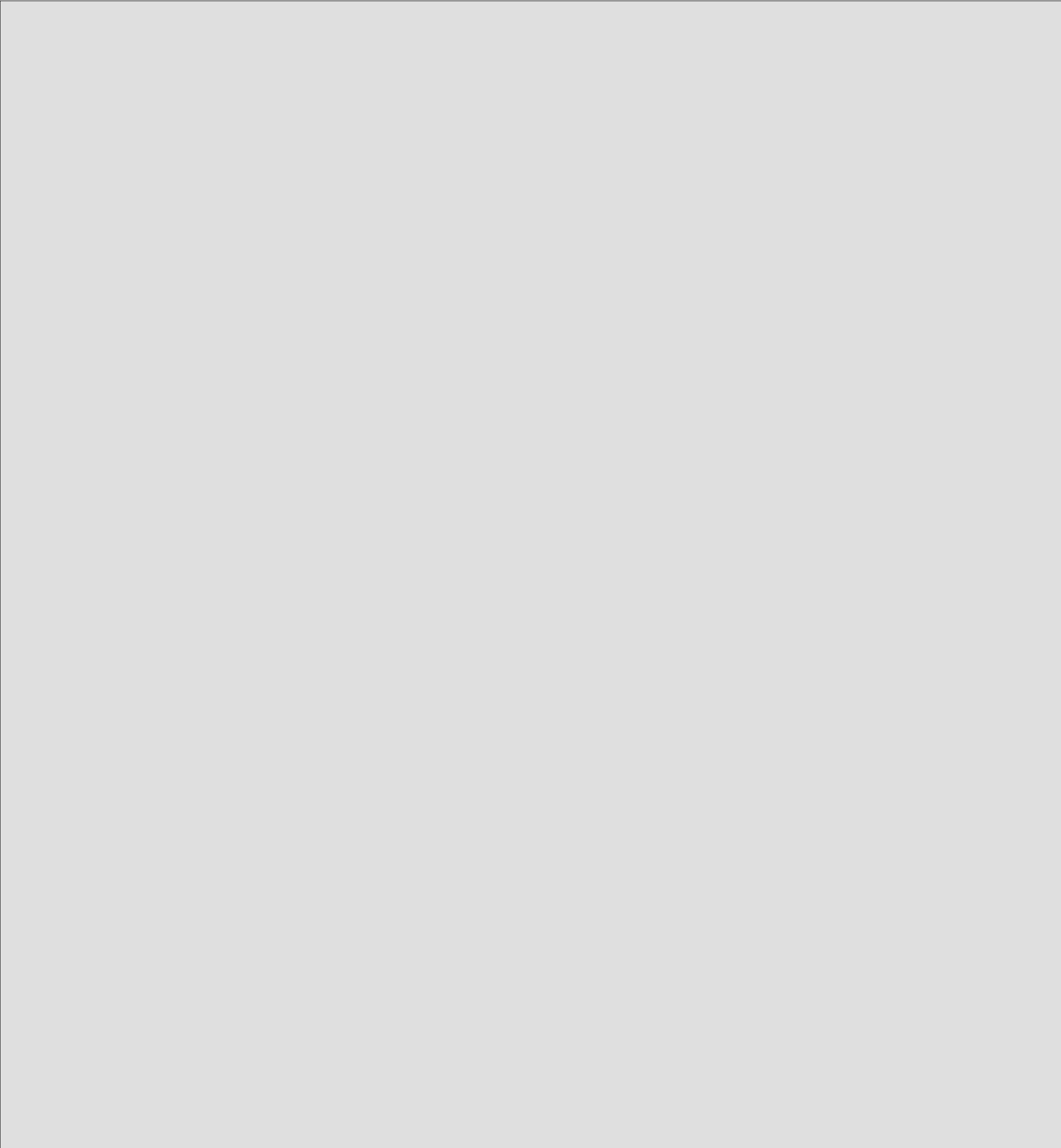
Monday

Living Nativity and Christmas Caroling, Chapel Two Courtyard, 6:30 p.m.

There's only one way
to come out ahead
of the pack.

QUIT

 American Heart
Association
WE'RE FIGHTING FOR
YOUR LIFE



●FROM CHANGE PAGE 1

there is no one more qualified, able or energetic to take command of AETC than General Cook.

“He’s been an instructor in the former Air Training Command; he’s commanded at every level; he’s flown bombers; he’s had three wing commands; he’s got extensive experience in space; he’s been mentored by the greatest of our Air Force leadership; and he takes the helm at a time when we need him most,” General Jumper said.

That need, the chief of staff said, stems from America’s war on terrorism and the challenges the men and women face who will fight and win the war.

“Where do the people come from who will do this duty?” General Jumper asked. “They come from right here ... those in uniform and the civilians in this command who take youngsters off the streets of our nation and turn them into skilled and trained airmen; who train more than 200,000 a year; and who have more than 1,000 people deployed overseas in support of operations in Afghanistan today.”

In accepting command, General Cook had a message for the nearly 50,000 military members, 15,000 civilians and 10,000



Charlie Perez

Gen. Donald Cook (right) accepts the Air Education and Training Command flag from Gen. John Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, during his assumption of command ceremony.

contract employees who make up AETC. “AETC’s mission is essential and its reputation is renowned,” he said. “We are a vital part of the world’s most respected

Air Force. It is up to us to continue to instill, develop and refine ... the skill and dedication that make us the most respected Air Force in the world.”

In looking to the future, the new commander said AETC members must reach beyond what is getting the job done today to what will make the Air Force successful in meeting the challenges of tomorrow.

“We must continue to recruit the right individuals — airmen able to meet tomorrow’s challenges,” he said. “We must train with a view to the future to combat unknown threats. We must educate our officers and enlisted members to think critically, preparing them to make the tough decisions ahead.”

General Cook received his fourth star at a promotion ceremony in the Randolph Officers Club immediately before the assumption of command ceremony.

He is the fifth general to command AETC since the command’s inception in 1993. AETC includes the Air Force Recruiting Service, 2nd and 19th Air Forces and Air University.

The general entered the Air Force in 1969 through the ROTC program at Michigan State University. Prior to assuming his current position, the general was assigned to Air Combat Command as vice commander.

Today in history

1620 The Pilgrims land at Plymouth Rock.

1862 The U.S. Congress authorizes the Medal of Honor to be awarded to Navy personnel who have distinguished themselves by their gallantry in action.

1866 Indians led by Red Cloud and Crazy Horse kill Capt. William J. Fetterman and 79 other men who had ventured out from Fort Phil Kearny to cut wood.

1928 President Calvin Coolidge signs the Boulder Dam bill.

1944 German troops surround the 101st Airborne Division at the Bastogne in Belgium.

1945 General George S. Patton dies at the age of 60 after being injured in a car accident.

1946 An earthquake and tidal wave kill hundreds in Japan.

1964 Great Britain's House of Commons votes to ban the death penalty.

1965 Four pacifists are indicted in New York for burning draft cards.

Avoid the Christmas Grinch; learn, practice fire safety

ROBERT ANDERSON
325th Civil Engineer Squadron fire protection flight

As we prepare for the holiday season, beware of the Christmas Grinch who likes to use fire hazards to ruin the holiday spirits. We have the tendency to get caught up in the holiday routine and forget good fire-safety habits. Time should be set aside to discuss fire-safety issues with fellow workers and family members. The following are some guidelines for fire prevention in the work place:

- Live Christmas trees are prohibited in government facilities except for military family housing. Only United Laboratories-approved fire retardant artificial trees are permitted.
- Use only UL-approved Christmas lights. Be sure to check each string for wire damage prior to hanging lights.
- Do not nail or staple wiring be-

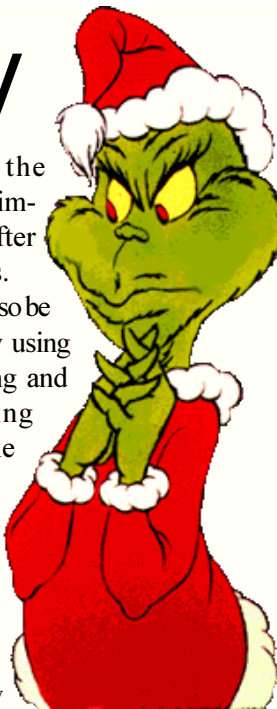
cause it may cause an electrical short and possible fire.

- Be careful not to overload electrical circuits.
- Use only fire retardant decorations.
- Ensure all facilities' fire-safety equipment such as fire extinguishers, fire-alarm pull stations and exits are unobstructed at all times.
- Though live Christmas trees are permitted in military family housing, the above guidelines still need to be adhered to along with the following information:
 - To allow the trees to have maximum moisture intake and to help prevent them from drying out, make a long diagonal cut across the base of the tree.
 - Place trees in the coolest part of the room and never place trees close to space heaters or in front of heating ducts.

- Take the trees down immediately after the holidays.

Fires can also be prevented by using good cooking and housekeeping habits. Take time to review fire reporting and emergency evacuation procedures with fellow workers and family members.

Don't let the Christmas Grinch steal your Christmas — practice fire safety at work and at home. The Tyndall Air Force Base Fire Department wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday.



Tyndall clubs to begin combined evening dining

LT. COL. JOHN G. STUTTS
325th Services Squadron commander

The leadership of this base, at all levels, has been very concerned about the direction in which Air Force clubs, and in particular our club operations here at Tyndall Air Force Base, have been headed over the last several years. The times have been particularly hard on clubs with small customer bases, as is the case here at Tyndall. Rather than stand by and watch as conditions continue to worsen, we have been trying to take a proactive approach to address the problems we can locally, and to

point out to other agencies the negative impact of some Air Force Services programs on our club operations.

Tyndall clubs were losing well over \$35,000 per year in their food programs! This contributes significantly to an overall bottom-line loss of over \$100,000 this last year alone. If the clubs continue to lose money at this rate for an extended period of time, we could be forced to go to a "catering only" fixed menu operation with a bar, or close the clubs altogether. After looking at all the possibilities, the only feasible alternative was combining our club food operations.

●SEE CLUBS PAGE 10

*Nearly two years and hundred
Tyndall prepares for the national spo*

'American Fig



A 95th Fighter Squadron F-15 powers up during filming of a takeoff sequence.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. DAN NEELY
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

The Navy had its phenomenal big-screen hit "Top Gun." Now it's the Air Force's turn — at least on the small screens of America.

After nearly two years of serving as a major filming location, the Tyndall Air Force Base mission is about to fly with full afterburners into the living rooms of nearly 16 million television viewers across America.

CBS recently signed on for eight one-hour episodes of the reality-based series "American Fighter Pilots." The series intimately follows the on- and off-duty lives of three Tyndall students as they train to become F-15 pilots. Scheduled for a late-January launch, the series also features in-depth interviews with the instructor pilots — called IPs — and academic instructors who trained the trio of 1st



Cameraman Dave Rudd films firefighters on the Tyndall flightline.

Lt. Todd "Merkin" Giggy and Capts. Marcus "Patch" Gregory and Mike "Getsno" Love.

Ironically, the CBS series is being produced by "Top Gun" director Tony Scott. He and brother Ridley (Ridley directed box office hits "Gladiator," "Hannibal" and "Alien") form the production house Scott Free Productions. Documentary filmmaker Jesse Negron, along with Brian Gadsinki (first producer, "America's Most Wanted") are executive producers on the project.

Fully supported by Air Force and 325th Fighter Wing



Lt. Col. Jerry Kerby, 325th Operations Support Squadron, gets zoomed in on while transient alert tug operators provide a unique filming platform.

senior leadership, Mr. Negron spent 18 months at Tyndall, shadowing the aspiring fighter pilots with unprec-
edented 24/7 scrutiny. To get the necessary aerial footage, Mr. Negron and his production crews were granted access to film from the back seat of numerous Tyndall F-15s and affixed cameras to others to capture hours of intense aerial combat training sessions.

But the filming didn't end there. In addition to from-the-cockpit shoot-
ing, the aspiring

Eagle pilots were followed everywhere from their homes and churches to local businesses in a maximum effort to get inside the training, culture and lifestyle of fighter pilots.

"I believe the USAF is in uncharted territory when it comes to 'American Fighter Pilots,'" said Lt. Col. David Freaney, 1st Fighter Squadron commander. The colonel was operations officer at Tyndall's 95th Fighter Squadron when the three young pilots were students in the F-15 basic course.

"It gives us an un-



Camera crews get up close and personal as firefighters respond to an F-15 emergency landing and runway barrier engagement exercise. At most base locations, film crews were given unprecedented access to get the best possible shots.

ture

ds of filming hours later,
spotlight with new CBS TV series

Fighter Pilots'

precedented chance to tell the Air Force story in our own way. The public will get an unimpeded view of our world. There's going to be a huge recruiting value associated with this production," the colonel said.

Colonel Freaney, who figures prominently in the series due to his experience with the featured student pilots, predicts the TV series will be a hands-down winner.

"My goal has always been to give the American public a truthful account of what it takes to graduate from the F-15 Basic Course," the colonel said. "The timing is perfect. Take a little patriotic spirit, combine that with the rise of reality TV, and throw in some of the best flying scenes that have ever been documented, and you have a can't-lose formula for success."

Initially, Mr. Negron intended to focus solely on the training environment, and he completed it as such. But shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks he saw a new opportunity in the powerful wave of American patriotism and pride in the military. Producers decided to follow the newly minted F-15 pilots to their current home bases – Merkin to RAF Lakenheath in England, and



From left, Master Sgt. Gary Wilson, 325 Operations Support Squadron airfield manager, and Capt. Mike Bibeau, 95th Fighter Squadron, coordinate the details of an upcoming runway shot.

Patch and Getsno to Kadena Air Base in Japan where filming continues.

To date, producers have shot more than 350 hours of interviews and background footage at and around Tyndall AFB – enough for eight episodes, and possibly 13 if the show is a big hit.

But none of the filming would have succeeded without Air Force and wing senior leadership support and the labors of hundreds of Tyndall members, military and civilian, who had a hand in the filming project.

Military and civilian members of the 325th Operations Group and 325th Support Group – IPs, crew chiefs, schedulers, life support teams, firefighters, security forces, airfield management, maintainers and many others — provided countless hours of active support over

the 18-month project to help film crews get the best shots. Additionally, civilian contractors at Tyndall were instrumental.

"CBS was under a tremendous time crunch to make this happen quickly," said Capt. Chris Karns, 325th Fighter Wing chief of public affairs.

"Many critical components to the storyline needed to be fleshed out. We received tremendous support from across the Air Force, especially from the 325th Fighter Wing, to locate all the key players, conduct follow-up interviews and complete the project on time."

"Take a little patriotic spirit, combine that with the rise of reality TV, and throw in some of the best flying scenes that have ever been documented, and you have a can't-lose formula for success."

*Lt. Col. David Freaney
1st Fighter Squadron
commander*



Producer Andy Scheer gives instructions to Tyndall motorcyclist Senior Airman Jeffrey Turner, who helped provide additional background footage.



Cameraman Jack Cannon shoots a closeup of firefighter Christopher Lee while shadowing him during an emergency response.

Troops may be closer to college degree than they realize

ARTHUR E. DUNN
982nd Training Group

Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas — Many maintainers might be closer to a college degree than they think. Consider this; education is one of the main reasons people join the Air Force and degree completion efforts will pay both short and long term dividends.

The roadmap to degree completion is readily available. Giving troops the encouragement and time to make an appointment at the education office will most likely prove they are closer than they thought to a college degree. This quick appointment can determine how many credits they already have, which credits apply where, how many credits are still needed and ways to obtain additional credits.

Many degree requirements are satisfied by the normal training cycle. Physical education requirements are met in basic training; technical credits are satisfied by maintenance and upgrade training and management credits are satisfied by professional military education. Although only 24 technical credits are required, some of the overflow can be applied to program electives. Excess credits from any area can be applied toward the 15-semester-hour program elective requirement.

Educational opportunities are plentiful.

●FROM CLUBS PAGE 7

What does this really mean? Basically, all dining at the clubs will be “all ranks.” The Zone lounge will continue to be the main enlisted lounge, Checkers lounge will continue to be the officers lounge, and the hours of the lounges will remain the same.

As you know, lunch is now being served Monday through Friday at the officers’ club. Dinner will be served only at the officers’ club each Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, and only at the enlisted club on Friday evenings. Most special functions will be held at the officers’ club. Under this system we will have only one manager, one catering operation, one ordering, receiving and storing system, etc., saving a lot of money in personnel



Courtesy photo

Many forms of professional military education, including field training, count toward troops’ credits for college degrees.

For supervisors, helping their troops succeed is the right thing to do. Take a quick look at typical education options. Today’s bases, in conjunction with local colleges, offer classes and other credit opportunities that will fit into almost anyone’s schedule. Some options include night and weekend classes, computer based or Internet courses and testing through several nationally recognized programs like the College Level Examination Program.

More than 70 percent of active-duty graduates of the April 2001 CCAF gradu-

ating class applied testing credit toward degree requirements. It’s possible and probable that an enlisted member who’s been through basic training, technical school, a field training course or two, UGT, Airman Leadership School and NCO Academy is only a few classes short of graduating.

For maintenance troops, field training offers a wide array of CCAF accredited aircraft courses that will definitely satisfy troops’ training requirements. With 44 detachments, 700 instructors and more than

650 advanced proficiency courses, FTDs are ready to meet your training needs.

Consider the benefits; statistics show CCAF degreed individuals are above national norms in technical competence, reading, writing, science and critical thinking. Since education is the reason more than 40 percent of recruits joined and 97 percent desire an associate or higher-level degree anyway, supervisors can help their people obtain their goal.

It’s easy to see how a quick visit to the education office can lead to increased competence, self-esteem and improved job performance. CCAF dividends continue after people leave active duty, too. These individuals will take with them years of experience and a transferable and marketable record of their college experiences. And finally, the Air Force turns back to the nation, whether in four, 20 or 30 years, a highly trained resource.

Just think, the offer and award of a job-related associate’s degree in applied science used to enhance the “3-R’s”...recruiting, readiness and retention. Continuing education enhances mission effectiveness and meets personal education goals. It also supports the career transitions of Air Force enlisted members to the civilian marketplace — a win-win situation, both today and in the future.

“The clubs are trying new and different things in an effort to become more in tune with customer desires.”

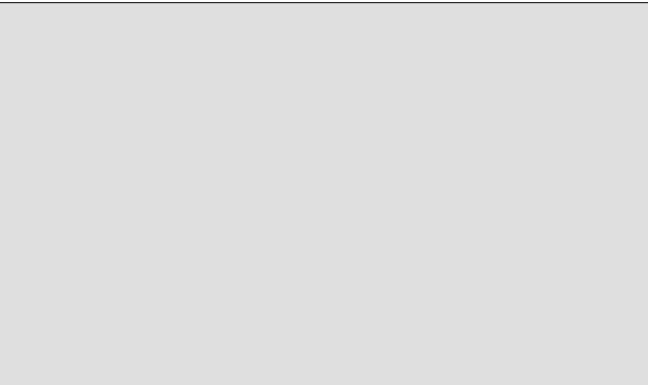
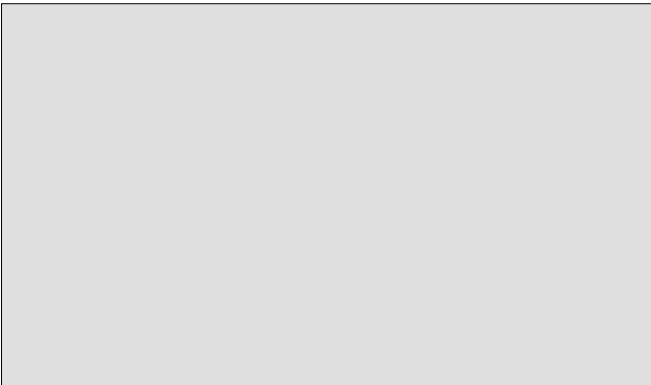
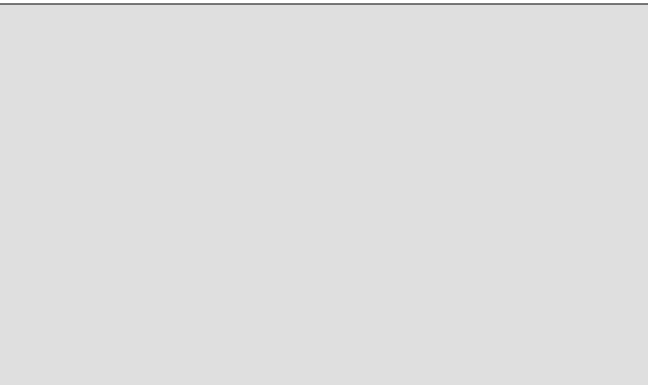
LT. COL. JOHN STUTTS
325th Services Squadron commander

expenses. This also allows the Community Activity Center (CAC) to take over portions of the enlisted club building, allowing the facility to be used for a wider variety of purposes.

These changes should give us the money we need to provide quality food, top-notch customer service and the types of entertainment that potential members want. We recently

signed a new entertainment contract to meet customer needs in both clubs, and have started new programs like Sunday Brunch and Mongolian BBQ. Also, look for a new pricing system for food at the clubs. The clubs have instituted a member value pricing system rather than the non-member surcharge system.

The clubs are trying new and different things in an effort to become more in tune with customer desires. We hope these improvements will allow us to attract new members to the club system and continue to serve existing members. We sincerely appreciate your support and welcome your inputs and attendance. If you have questions about club operations, please feel free to contact Jerry LaFrance, Services Business Operations flight chief, at 283-4054.



Caption contest



Courtesy photo

Name this photo!

Caption this photo! Send your entries to the safety office by Jan. 25 and you might win a free lunch at the officers' club.



Last month's winner

KRISTOPHER ZIEGLER
325th Logistics Group

"Under Cover Cops"

Military Affairs Committee has long, notable history with Tyndall

STAFF SGT. ROEL UTLEY
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Most military installations have a good rapport with their local civilian communities, but Tyndall Air Force Base is exceptionally fortunate. The local Chamber of Commerce has an entire committee of almost 300 whose sole purpose is to look for ways to assist the military community.

The Military Affairs Committee, headed by Joe Tannehill, is in the business of making life a whole lot easier for Team Tyndall.

"The committee was set up in the 1950s by civic leaders and base commanders as a way of improving relationships between the military and the people of Bay County," said Mr. Tannehill.

For 50 years, the MAC has stepped up to the plate to help Tyndall during high-profile visits to the base and other notable events such as promotions and retirements of key base figures, just to name a few. In return, Team Tyndall has become interwoven in the fabric of the local community helping with such programs as Habitat for Humanity and the mentor program in area schools.

"The people assigned to Tyndall are welcome into any community activity. They belong to churches. They belong to community affairs operations, civic clubs and charity organizations. They're definitely contributors and supporters of our community and the community needs to recognize their efforts for what they do to help this community."

Getting support from the community is as easy as placing a phone call to Mr. Tannehill. "(The MAC) is one of the major goals and tasks that the chamber has in Bay County. Whatever the needs are at Tyndall, it's a way of getting help and sup-

port from the community. We have nearly 300 members in Bay County. We've got people who have been on the MAC since the '50s."

"Since I took command of the wing, Bay County's Military Affairs Committee has given us unwavering support," said Brig. Gen. William Hodgkins, 325th Fighter Wing commander. "Joe Tannehill has truly been one of our most ardent supporters in the community and whenever the base has needed any local assistance, Joe, and members of the MAC and Bay County, have always been ready and willing to step in and provide 110 percent."

"I think that most everyone would say that as far as community affairs type activity, Bay County has the best in the United States. It's a shame that it's not that way everywhere," Mr. Tannehill said.

"If we don't hear from (Tyndall) after a while, we'll come out there and say, 'Hey, what can we do for you.' It's really a great relationship. It's a labor of love. You guys are special to us," Mr. Tannehill said.

Being the MAC chairman has come as second nature for Mr. Tannehill who comes from a family with a military history dating back to the Revolutionary War. Upon graduation in 1955 from the

ROTC program at Georgia Tech, he became Army Lt. Tannehill and trained at Fort Bliss, Texas, in anti-aircraft artillery. "My family has participated in just about every war we've ever had including the Revolutionary War. We've been very appreciative of the military. It was a natural thing for me. I was strongly in favor of the military mission and the people who make up the military. In my particular case it was something I didn't have to learn."

●SEE MAC PAGE 13



Courtesy photo

Joe Tannehill will step down as Military Affairs Committee chairman Jan. 1.

Your link
to what's going on

Gulf

Guide

in the
Tyndall community

DECEMBER

FRI

21

'Pop's Pride' Christmas
The Croom family's 'Pop's Pride' Christmas village display is open today through Dec. 31 at 605 N. Gay Ave. in Callaway. The display is open to the public 4-8 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays and 1-8 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. It will be closed Dec. 24-25. The 900 square-foot display of more than 400 miniature houses is free of charge and includes everything from farmland scenes to the North Pole. For more information, call Maurice or Annette Croom, 871-2629, or visit their Web site at: www.PopsPride.com.

Embry-Riddle registration
Today is the last day of early registration for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Spring 2002 term. Regular registration will be 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Jan. 2-4 in Room 49 of the Tyndall Education Center. Classes will be held Jan. 7-March 9. For more information, call the education center, 283-4557.

GCCC registration
Today is the last day of early registration for Gulf Coast Community College's Spring term. Students may register 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. in Room 45-A of the education center. Classes begin Jan. 10. For more information, call the education center, 283-4332.

Thrift shop holiday hours
The Tyndall Thrift Shop will be closed today-Jan. 6 and will reopen Jan. 9. For more information, call the thrift shop, 286-5888.

MON

24

Commissary holiday hours
The Tyndall Commissary will be open Monday and closed Tuesday and Wednesday for Christmas. The store will also be open Dec. 31 and closed Jan. 1, 2002. It will reopen Jan. 2.

AAFES Christmas hours
The following base exchange facilities will be open Monday at the following times: main exchange, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Class Six, service station, dry cleaners, general nutrition center, flower shop and Alltel, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Felix Lake Shoppette, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Burger King, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; barber shop, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; beauty shop, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Shoal Point Shoppette will be closed. All facilities will be closed Tuesday, Christmas Day.

'Moms, Pops & Tots'
The parent and child interaction play group, "Moms, Pops & Tots," for parents and their under-age-five children meets on Mondays. For more information and meeting locations, call 286-5812.

THU

27

Antiterrorism training
Mandatory antiterrorism training is provided by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations

on a walk-in basis 8 a.m. every Thursday in Building 656. The training will last approximately 45 minutes. Anyone with a permanent change of station or temporary duty assignment to an overseas location who has not received Level-I Antiterrorism training within six months of their departure date is required to receive this training prior to out-processing. Out-processing checklists should be brought to the training session. Military dependents are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Special Agent Doug Hartwell, 283-3261 or 283-3262.

Palace Chase briefing
Palace Chase briefings for all those interested in the Palace Chase program will be 1 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of each month in Room 222 of Building 662. For more information, call in-service recruiter Master Sgt. Bill Beasley, 283-8384.

MON

31

AAFES New Years hours
The following base exchange facilities will be open Dec. 31 at the following times: main exchange, service station, barber shop, beauty shop, dry cleaners, general nutrition center, flower shop and Alltel, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Shoal Point Shoppette, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Class Six, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Felix Lake Shoppette, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Burger King, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The Felix Lake Shoppette will be open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 1; all other facilities will be closed.

JANUARY

WED

2

Protestant youth group
The Tyndall Chapel's Protestant Youth Group meets 5-7 p.m. Wednesdays at Chapel 2. For more information, call the Chapel 2 office, 283-2925.

NOTES

Firing range restrictions
The 325th Security Forces Squadron's combat arms section cautions all to stay clear of the land adjacent to the firing range. Trespassing is illegal and dangerous. The red range flag will be flying during day firing, and the red beacon will be flashing during night firing. For more information, call combat arms, 283-2114.

SSN on checks
Effective immediately, Social Security Numbers will no longer be required on checks written at services' facilities. For more information, call the 325th Services Resource Management Flight, 283-2207.

Essay and art contests
The Armed Services YMCA is seeking entries from military children for its 2002 art contest and readers' essay contest. Artwork from children in kindergarten through sixth grade depicting their active-duty, Guard or Reserve military families will be accepted. The top art prizewinner will receive a \$500 Savings Bond. The entry deadline is Jan. 28. The essay portion is open to first through 12th graders and

offers Savings Bond prizes of up to \$1,000. The entry deadline is March 28. For contest guidelines, call (703) 866-1260 or send an e-mail to: essaycontest@asymca.org.

Wood Manor sewer line repair
Residents of Wood Manor Housing should be aware that the next phase of the ongoing sewer line replacement will take place on the remainder of Sidewinder Street and then move to Sentry Lane. New replacements will end for the holidays and resume on Jan. 2.

Life insurance
Airmen wishing to reduce or decline Servicemembers Group Life Insurance coverage must come to customer service in the military personnel section of Building 662 prior to Dec. 31.

RETIREE NEWS

Long-term health care
The office of personnel management still expects a late summer or early fall 2002 open season for the long-term health-care program that starts Oct. 1, 2002. This announcement comes despite the fact the contract signing did not take place in November as expected.

The Long Term Care Insurance Program, Public Law 106, provides insurance for federal government employees, military active duty, federal and military retirees and their family members. There will be no government subsidy, but the plan is expected to reduce rates up to approximately 20 percent below rates for individual commercial plans.

OPM officials say they are expecting an enrollment opportunity to be offered in early 2002, possibly in the February or March time frame. OPM points out, however, that the education and marketing campaign won't be in full swing by then, so they expect only those people who have extensive knowledge about long-term care insurance to apply during the early enrollment opportunity.

Early applicants may have to acknowledge that they are purchasing coverage without benefit of reviewing the informational materials that probably won't be available by then. It is also true that early applicants will have to make premium payments directly or by bank debit since pay and annuity deduction systems will not have been put in place. OPM will post information on its Web site, www.opm.gov as soon as it is available.

The late summer/early fall 2002 open enrollment will come after insurance partners have held numerous education meetings, produced satellite broadcasts and videos, unveiled an extensive new Web site with interactive tools and sent information to employees and annuitants.

YARD SALES

There are no yard sales scheduled for Saturday.

BASE THEATER

Today: "The One" (PG-13, intense action violence and some language, 87 min.)
Saturday: "Heist" (R, language and strong violence, 110 min.)
Sunday: "The One"
Thursday: "Heist"
December 28: "Shallow Hal" (PG-13, language and sexual content, 114 min.)
December 29: "Shallow Hal"
December 30: "Life as a House" (R, language, sexuality and drug use, 123 min.)
January 3: "Life as a House"
All movies start at 7 p.m.

CLASSIFIEDS

Hard to find 1979 Mustang pace car, 302 auto, tinted windows, new tires on 16-inch factory star wheels. PCS move, asking \$4,000. Call 286-9803.

●FROM MAC PAGE 11

Mr. Tannehill’s corporate family also has a strong military tradition. He is the chairman and chief executive officer of Merrick Industries Inc., and employs many former military members. “One thing we do out here at Merrick, we’ve been doing this now for 11 years, we have a Veterans Day ceremony remembering the military and what it’s done through the years. About three-fourths of our employees here are ex-military. We have a ceremony out by the flag pole and usually somebody from Tyndall or the Navy Lab will come and give us a short address. We have an honor guard that’s made up of our veterans.”

Merrick Industries is an engineering manufacturing business that makes an array of items ranging from microprocessor computer controls to dynamic scales used in anything from food processing to pharmaceuticals to the manufacture of cement. “We’re on the high-tech end of capital goods products. We’re kind of a wide spectrum of disciplines here.” Panama City is considered the world headquarters for Merrick Industries in that the company conducts 40 percent of its business with companies from around the world.

Mr. Tannehill’s tenure as MAC chairman ends Jan. 1, but his affinity toward and support of Team Tyndall will never waver.

“The MAC is one of the major goals and tasks that the chamber has in Bay County. Whatever the needs are at Tyndall, it’s a way of getting help and support from the community. We’ve got people who have been on the MAC since the ‘50s.”

JOE TANNEHILL
Military Affairs Committee chairman

‘Sensible Weigh’ program can help with New Year’s resolutions

STAFF SGT. ROEL UTLEY
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

With the holiday season come office parties, celebrations with friends and family and food, food, food. So what’s the best way to keep all that food from finding a nice comfortable home around your waistline?

Sign up for the Sensible Weigh Lifestyle Change Program at the Tyndall Health and Wellness Center to find out. The program is designed to give people all the tools needed for the task of losing weight.

“The program basically is a series of five classes,” said Capt. Carma Pauli, 325th Medical Group dietician. Four classes are a week apart and one is at the two-month point.

“Throughout the different modules, we teach people about portion sizes, meal plans, starting an exercise program and some of the behavioral issues that surround eating problems,” the captain said.

“It’s not easy,” said Sheryl Helmich, who completed the program in the spring of this year. She skirted the commitment to change her eating habits until mid-July. Then she went cold turkey and employed all the information she had accumulated. After three months of limiting her food choices, Mrs. Helmich noticed a considerable difference. She is now 77 pounds lighter than when she started. “I’m smaller than I was when I was 16,” she said.

According to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney

Diseases, a little more than half the American population is overweight. Many of those who are overweight flock to store shelves looking for quick and easy fixes to beat the battle of the bulge. But those dietary supplements aren’t the answer.

“We don’t really focus on quick weight loss because if somebody is losing weight at a rate quicker than one to two pounds per week, it’s not coming from fat,” the dietician said.

People who want to sign up for this program have just a few steps to start shedding pounds and tapping into the fountain of knowledge to lifestyle changes. Interested participants can call 283-3826 or 283-7552 to sign up for the program.

“We’ll order some lab work, we’ll do some paperwork with them, we’ll have a packet of information they fill out so we get an idea of their medical history, prior attempts at weight loss that they’ve made and that sort of thing,” Captain Pauli said. “We’ll also do an initial body-fat taping so we can compare that with the two-month check and see how their body-fat level has changed as well.”

The lab work that is done at the beginning of the program helps the Health and Wellness Center staff determine if there are any underlying factors that may affect weight loss and overall health.

“We’ll look at a thyroid test to see if they may be having other medical problems that are making weight loss diffi-

cult,” the captain said. “Usually we’ll look at a cholesterol panel as well to see if they might benefit from our cholesterol education program, and a lot of people may not be having that done as frequently as they need to. So it’s just an opportunity to identify problems early on.”

With all these tests and body-fat tapings and such, some active-duty members may tend to shy away from the program. But Captain Pauli reassures members have no fear of reprisal from this program.

“If they’re coming here on their own accord, that is something that is confidential in their medical record,” Captain Pauli said. “Unless they’ve been identified by their commander or from a weigh-in, that’s the only way we know that they’re over. The only place that it’s documented is in their medical record. We love for people to come in a preventative mode as opposed to finally being caught by the system.”

The Sensible Weigh Lifestyle Change Program is offered to anyone who is authorized to receive medical care from the base hospital. The number of participants in the program varies throughout the year. To accommodate everyone, there are two sessions per month. They usually start the first and third week of the month. The first session lasts about an hour and a half since participants have to fill out a few forms and learn how the program works. Most follow-up sessions last about an hour.

Funshine NEWS

December 21, 2001

This page is produced by the 325th Services Marketing office, 283-4565.

Officers

New Year's Eve Celebration

December 31
8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Heavy hors d'oeuvres throughout the evening followed by a full breakfast at 12:30 a.m.

Live entertainment, party favors included



Couples \$16.95 Members, \$21.95 Non-Members
Singles \$12 Members, \$17 Non-Members

Call for reservations NLT December 22

283-4357

Spend the night at the Sand Dollar Inn call 283-4211

Sports Page Pizza Pub
All-You-Can-Eat

Pizza Buffet: \$4.75

Monday & Thursday
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Includes drink, salad bar, and a variety of hot, fresh pizza
Call 283-3222 for more information.

Enlisted

New Year's Eve Party at Pizza Pub

Dec. 31, 8 p.m. - 2 a.m. at the CAC

Hors d'oeuvres and beverage specials throughout the evening followed by a full breakfast at Midnight

Live Band: Hard Drive playing 9 p.m.-1 a.m.



Purchase tickets at the CAC Pizza Pub or Officers' Club Cashier Cage. Call 283-3222 for details.

Spend the night at the Sand Dollar Inn call 283-4211

Sand Dollar Inn Holiday Space A Reservations

The Sand Dollar Inn is authorized to make Space A reservations up to 2 weeks in advance, for up to 5 days, for stays beginning Dec. 15 through Jan. 6. To make a reservation call 283-4211 ext. 3346. Call and make reservations for family, friends, or yourself.

For more information call 283-4211.

Skeet & Trap

☎ 283-2499

Squadron Sports Days

The range is available for squadron sports days. Prior arrangements can be made through Wendy at 283-2499.

Family Child Care

☎ 283-2266

Child Care for Volunteers

Child care for most base volunteers is available through Air Force Aid. Contact the Family Support Center and Family Child Care for additional information.

Youth Center End of Year Parties

Family Party

December 28; 6-10 p.m.

Members: \$1, Nonmembers \$3

Entire Family \$5

■ dancing ■ games ■
■ party favors ■ refreshments ■
■ entertainment ■ surprises! ■

Teen Party

December 29; 7-11 p.m.

Members: \$1, Nonmembers \$3

■ entertainment ■ favors ■
■ dancing ■ refreshments ■
■ surprises! ■

Call 283-4366 for more information.

Marina Club

☎ 283-3059

Family New Year's Party

Dec. 31, 7 p.m. until 1 a.m. DJ, Karaoke, and games. Snacks and a champagne toast. Members \$10, nonmembers \$15. Kids under 13 years are FREE! Dress to impress. Call for more information.

Information, Tickets & Travel

☎ 283-2499

Foley, Alabama After Christmas Shopping

January 5: Cost per person is \$15. Deadline for signup is Jan. 3. Space is limited.

Orlando Attractions Tour

January 24-27: Choice of parks includes: Walt Disney World, Universal Studios, or Islands of Adventure. Cost per person, double occupancy is \$225. Full payment is due by January 18.

Let Us Help You...

Call 283-2864 for all your airline, hotel and rental car needs.

The Pelican Point Golf Course will be open Christmas day for walkers. No facility services will be available.

Bonita Bay

☎ 283-3199

Winter Boat Rental Rates

Stop by Bonita Bay and rent a boat for half price, not including fuel. Call for details and availability.

AERO CLUB

Upcoming Classes

Private Pilot Ground School: Jan. 7
Commercial Instrument: Jan. 8

283-4404

Skills Development Ctr.

☎ 283-4511

Woodworking Class

Coffee Table and End Tables

Jan. 12, 19, and 26; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free Lessons! Cost of wood at 10% above cost and use of machines at \$2.00 per hour. Includes glue, nails, screws, etc. Limit four students.

Ceramics Class

Jan. 12, 10 a.m.-noon, Learn to make a jewelry box. Cost is \$15 and includes lesson, greenware & firing. Maximum number of students is four. Call for more information. Must register by Jan. 11.

Vet Clinic

☎ 283-2434

Holiday Hours

Closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1.

Sealed Bid Vehicle Sale

1991 Dodge Ram B350 Van
15 Passenger • Mileage 54,706

Minimum Bid: \$500.00

Van may be seen behind Bldg. 1129.

For more information
call MSgt Roush 283-4858.

Deadline for bids is
Dec. 28. Bids may be placed in a box located in room 10 of Bldg. 1129.

AETC Holiday Designated Driver Program



Make the Holidays SAFER and WIN!

Be a designated driver this year between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day and you could win a two night stay at one of two San Antonio Marriott Resorts (River Center or Riverwalk). Identify yourself as a designated driver and fill out an entry form at any participating Services facility each visit. Must be 18 years old to enter. The drawing will be held Jan. 3, 2002.

Participating Services facilities:

Bowling Center, 19th Hole Snack Bar at Pelican Pt. Golf Course, Officers' Club, Pelican Reef Enlisted Club, Pizza Pub at the CAC & Marina Club

Holiday Designated Driver Program made possible by sponsorship from



No Federal Endorsement of Sponsors Intended.

ALL RANKS Super Bowl Sunday

at the CAC

Pizza Pub Feb. 31
4 p.m. until...

283-3222

